

**S E C R E T**

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FOR KELLY JOHNSON FROM GENERAL LEDFORD AND JIM CUNNINGHAM

1. AS YOU KNOW, WE HAVE GROUNDED ALL AGENCY U-2 ACFT UNDER OUR IMMEDIATE CONTROL FOLLOWING THE UNEXPLAINED LOSS OF ARTICLE 342 LAST FRIDAY. BECAUSE OF THE TYPE OF ACCIDENT IT WAS, AND THE IMPLICATIONS IT CONTAINS FOR OUR OTHER ACFT, AND IN CONSIDERATION OF OUR RAPIDLY DWINDLING ASSETS, WE SEE NO OTHER IMMEDIATE COURSE THAN TO REMAIN GROUNDED UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE MAJORITY OF THE WRECKAGE IS LOCATED AND EXAMINED.

2. WE UNDERSTAND THAT YOU HAVE DIRECTED A THOROUGH GOING EXAMINATION OF THE ACFT AND SHOP RECORDS ON 342 WITHIN LOCKHEED TO SEE IF ANY CONCLUSIONS REGARDING POSSIBLE EARLIER STRUCTURAL DAMAGE CAN BE DRAWN. WE ARE MOST ANXIOUS THAT YOU PROSECUTE THIS PART OF THE INVESTIGATION AND THE DIAGNOSTIC ASPECTS OF THE ROOT DIFFICULTY WITH THE GREATEST VIGOR IN COMPANY WITH

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25X1AREP, WHO IS THE INVESTIGATING OFFICER FOR THE ACCIDENT. WE SHALL BE LOOKING TO LOCKHEED TO COME UP WITH FIRM RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING POSSIBLE CORRECTIVE MEASURES THAT SHOULD BE TAKEN EITHER IN THE INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE CYCLES

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OR IN THE FLIGHT REGIME TO PERMIT US TO RESUME OPERATIONS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. IT SEEMS QUITE LIKELY THAT POLITICAL PRESSURE MAY DEVELOP IN OUR DIRECTION TO RESUME OPERATIONS IN VIEW OF THE LONG PERIOD OF INACTIVITY PRECEDING THE LOSS OF 342. WE INTEND TO HOLD THE LINE ON REMAINING GROUNDED, PENDING YOUR CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS AS TO OUR NEXT COURSE OF ACTION. WE CANNOT AFFORD ANOTHER LOSS FOR ANY REASON WITHOUT AN ADEQUATE EXPLANATION OF THE STRUCTURAL IMPLICATIONS OF 342. ANYTHING YOU NEED FROM US IN THE WAY OF SUPPORT TO PROSECUTE THIS PART OF THE DIAGNOSIS IS SIMPLY AWAITING YOUR REQUEST.

END OF MESSAGE

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